



VALVERDE VIEW

Updates, ideas, and what's happening with our Jaguars!



We love our School Family Meetings outside on the blacktop!

hello, families!

It has been such a wonderful start to the 2021-2022 school year, and I am so excited to kick off a monthly newsletter for all of you so that you can learn more about what's happening at Valverde! This monthly newsletter will feature a snapshot into what each of our grade levels is learning about and working on, so that you can support your child's learning at home!

I'm also excited to feature a new Literacy Tip of the Month to help you all learn alongside us on our Early Literacy journey!

In the "Tech-Free Time" corner, I'll plan to include a fun activity you can engage in with your family at home in order to promote time away from devices, building authentic connections and relationships with those you love.

Please let me know if there are any other ideas you have for what you'd like to learn more about! I'm so excited to work with each and every one of you in support of our Valverde Jaguars this year!

This Month:

IN ECE...

Our theme is HOUSE/FAMILIES. We are pretending to be at a house, taking care of babies, doing laundry, dishes, cooking a nice meal, etc. We are reading traditional stories as well as texts about families. We are also practicing number sense by counting collections of family members. ECSE is learning ALL ABOUT ME this month!

IN KINDERGARTEN...

Kindergarten is learning all about how animals move. We are reading fiction and nonfiction books and learning all about text features and asking and answering questions to help us better understand a text. In math, Kindergarten is using five frames to help us learn the many ways to make five.

IN 1ST GRADE...

We are using Number Racks to help learn more about combinations of 5 and 10 in Math. For Reading we're using different texts to answer the question "What is it like where you live?" while also learning more about short and long sounds. In Social Studies we're learning about how Malala helped her community!

IN 2ND GRADE...

We are learning all about Key Details, Visualizing, Writing Realistic Fiction stories, Fantasy Genre, and Vocabulary. We're practicing our Story Problems, Addition Strategies, and learning about place value!

IN 3RD GRADE...

3rd grade is learning about how different cultures contribute to a community and writing personal narratives. We will plan, draft, and publish our first stories. In math, we have been reviewing and learning different strategies to add and subtract. Next, we will start multiplication!

IN 4TH GRADE...

We are reading about how natural disasters can cause a crisis. We analyze how people respond to a natural disaster by rereading. We will have a virtual field trip to learn more about natural disasters. In math, we are solving multiplication and division problems with the matrix, number line, ratio tables, and area models. In Science, we are helping "Ergtown" to avoid blackouts by learning about electricity!

IN 5TH GRADE...

5th grade has been working hard on writing personal narratives, multiplication strategies, learning about the earth's relationship with the sun, and how we can better honor Native American cultures.

IN SPECIALS...

Kindergarten and 1st grade Art will be celebrating DOT Day. Be on the look out for more information about our Dia de Los Muertos Art celebration coming in the month of October!

In music, 2nd grade is learning how to sing and dance on a steady beat. They will perform on Friday 24th at 2:40 outside Valverde stage to honor and celebrate Hispanic heritage month! 3rd graders are getting ready to start their recorder program.



Mrs. Gonzalez' class showing off their balance skills in PE!!

Literacy Tip of the Month: Letter Names vs. Sounds

It's important for students to know the names of the letters and the alphabet, but even more important than students learning their letters is learning the sounds that the letters make. Once students can recognize and say the sounds each letter makes, they are on their way to being able to decode words on their own. Ask your child's teacher to help you with the correct articulation of each letter sound (seriously-it's trickier than it seems sometimes!) Then, once you've practiced letter sounds with your child, reinforce the practice in a fun way:

- **Choose a letter out of a bag**, and have your child make a list of all the words they can think of that start with that sound
- **Make a sound scavenger hunt.** Start with a letter sound like "ssss" for letter S, and have students find things like spaghetti, soup, etc. around the house!
- **Mystery letter** - "can you tell me which letter I'm thinking of? It's at the beginning of words like "fish, fun, and food"

Tech-Free Time:

Taking time to switch off technology when home with your family is so important for healthy development. Especially during this digital age, screens can have adverse effects on children's physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Here are four fun activities that you can enjoy that DON'T include smartphones and tablets:

- **Picnic in the backyard!** Mix up your mealtime and enjoy some fresh air!
- **Stargaze before bed!** Instill a sense of wonder in your children by looking up at the wide world around us - it's super relaxing, beautiful, and so humbling!
- **Game night!** Break out the popcorn and some puzzles, board games, or cards!
- **Cook together!** There is no better comfort food than a home-cooked family recipe, and cooking with the kids can be an amazing (and yummy!) way to spend time together